

Barrington Police Department

Working Together



With Our Community

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 03

Chief John M. LaCross

Barrington Police Department

Fiscal Year 02-03 Achievements

As the Fiscal Year 02 came to an end, the following five (5) officers retired from the Police Department; Officers S. Bruce Dufrense, Joseph E. Pine, Jr., Detective Gary M. Palumbo, Sergeants Carl A. Luther and Kenneth J. Schauble. Over one hundred and thirty-five (135) years of combined law enforcement experience was lost when these officers retired. These retirements constitute a 20% reduction of the entire Police Department. Their law enforcement experience and friendship was surely missed.

Since June 2002, four (4) new officers have completed the Rhode Island Municipal Academy and have joined the force. They are Nathan T. Bagshaw, Benjamin A. Ferreira, Brendan T. Handfield, and Anthony DeCristoforo. Recruit Marc Pimentel is scheduled to attend the Rhode Island Municipal Academy in August of 2003.

Below is a list of Department sworn and civilian personnel Seniority List.

Name	Rank	Badge #	Date of Hire
John M. LaCross	Chief	1	01/18/02
Dino Decrescenzo	Det. Sgt	4	03/24/86
Roy R. Degre	Sergeant	5	07/27/87
Thomas P. Poirier	Sergeant.	6	01/05/82
Lee A. Soito	Sergeant	7	05/19/86
Scott McGovney	Sergeant	8	10/15/90
William A. Dorney	Officer	10	10/03/88
Timothy J. Harrington	Officer	11	03/14/91
Shane P. Allen	Officer	12	08/29/94
Josh T. Birrell	Officer	13	03/06/95
Kevin F. Igoe	Officer	14	03/08/95
Gino Caputo	Officer	15	03/08/95
D. Pat Clegg	Officer	16	05/29/95
Wesley G. McCoy	Officer	17	12/18/95
Todd J. Travers	Officer	18	09/01/97
Joseph D. Andreozzi	Officer	19	09/01/97
Gregg F. Koutros	Officer	20	08/31/98
Dianne E. Pinto	Officer	21	03/22/99
Jeffrey R. Lavigne	Officer	22	08/20/01
Nathan T. Bagshaw	Officer	23	03/18/02
Benjamin A. Ferreira	Officer	24	08/13/02
Brendan T. Handfield	Officer	25	08/13/02
Anthony DeCristoforo	Officer	26	03/17/03
Name	Rank	Badge #	Date of Hire
Ms. Jane Fazio	Chief's Executive Secretary		11/13/95
Joseph Benedetti	A.C.O	702	09/07/78
Daniel J. Peters	Dispatcher	903	04/15/80
John J. Duffy	Dispatcher	906	01/05/82
Patricia F. Watson	Dispatcher	901	07/28/91
Adam W. Merkert	Dispatcher	905	05/26/00
Michael D. deGuzman	Records Clerk	805	09/29/01
John Holmes	Temp. Dispatcher	910	05/02/01
Glenn Maciel	Temp. Dispatcher	907	09/16/02
Mollie Binns	Temp. Dispatcher	908	09/16/02

Uniform Division Report

The Department's Uniform Division enforces the state traffic laws in a consistent and courteous manner to foster a positive public image, while providing a safe flow of vehicular traffic.

With the exception of the Wampanoag Trail, most roads in the Town of Barrington are posted at speed limits of 25 miles per hour (MPH) or 35 MPH. From July 1 2002, through June 30, 2003, members of the Uniform Division issued a total of 2,562 motor vehicle violations and issued 883 verbal warnings. This was a substantial increase from the 1,408 violations issued during the Fiscal Year 02. Arrests were at a record high at 411 as compared to 280 arrests made in FY 02 and 267 arrests made in FY 01 respectfully.



Uniformed members handled a total of 17,584 calls for service during Fiscal Year 03, up from 12,795 during Fiscal Year 02 and 12,236 during Fiscal Year 01 respectively. Patrols investigated a total of 577 accidents during the year with a large percentage occurring in private parking lots.

Drunk Driving and Under Age Drinking Arrests were up during FY-03 with 66 arrests as compared to total 45 arrests during FY-02. Uniformed Officers also seized 44 kegs of beer from various locations within Town after dispersing hundreds of youths from these parties. Thirty-three (33) youths under the age of 21 were arrested and charged with possession of alcohol as a result of proactive enforcement.

Department members investigated a total of 53 Domestic Violence related calls which result in 28 arrests.

Members of the Department provided traffic control and security for the Fourth Annual CVS Charity Golf Classic. As the Incident Commanders of this event, Sgt. Lee Soito and Sgt. Dino DeCrescenzo did an outstanding job coordinating the logistics of this event.

Sergeant Scott McGovney is assigned as the Officer In Charge of the Bay Spring Crime Watch Program with the assistance of Officers Kevin Igoe and Dianne Pinto. Officer Dianne Pinto was assigned as the Elderly Affairs Officer on November 14, 2002.

ACO Report

Mr. Joseph Benedetti is the Animal Control Officer (ACO) for the Town of Barrington. During the harsh winter months, several residents called to complain about coyotes coming close to their homes or chasing domestic pets. As a result, ACO Benedetti responded to the neighborhood residents with informational packets relating to the prevention of coyote contacts and continued a daily patrol of the neighborhoods that reported these sightings. During the Spring and Summer months, coyotes sightings dropped considerably.

ACO Benedetti issued a total of 214 violations to pet owners who violated town ordinances relating to domestic animals.

Explorer Program

The Explorer Program was re-established this year and is designed to teach high school students the important curriculum required to become a police officer. Instructors for the Explore Program are Detective Josh Birrell, Officers, Gino Caputo, Todd Travers, Dianne Pinto, Jeffrey Lavigne and Nathan Bagshaw.

Uniform Division Interesting Cases During FY-03:

On July 12, 2002 at 0314 officers were dispatched to a Sherwood Lane residence for the report of a Burglary in progress. Sgt. Tom Poirier, Officers Pinto and Jeff Lavigne arrived on scene and searched the house and immediate area. Subsequently, a juvenile subject was spotted behind the house in a wooded area and began to run. Officer Lavigne arrested this individual with the assistance of Sgt. Poirier and Officer Pinto. As a result of this arrest, a male adult has been also charged with this crime. All three officers will be receiving Letters of Commendation for the professional manner in which they responded and apprehended this individual.

On July 16, 2002 East Providence Police and Fire requested our assistance with evacuating a burning building. The building was the Eastgate Apartments on the Wampanoag Trail just over the Barrington Line. Officer Jeff Lavigne while on the North side of the building saw a lady trying to get out of her apartment. She was trying to break her window to escape. Officer Lavigne used his ASP baton and smashed the window out to assist her in escaping her room. Sgt. Tom Poirier assisted in the building search to ascertain that no other residence were still inside. Both Members will receive Letters of Commendations for the professional manner in which they handled the situation and put their own lives at risk.

On October 19, Sgt. Roy Degre and Officer Gregg Koutros deployed Stop Sticks, a tire-deflating device, on Rte 114 as a result of a chase on County Road by Warren Police Department. The suspect vehicle traveled over the Stop Sticks and came to a safe halt. One passenger fled on foot and was quickly apprehended by Officer Shane Allen. This subject was found to be in possession of 20 packets of heroin and over \$2,000 of stolen goods from the Barrington CVS.

On November 22, at 10:00 PM, Officers Tim Harrington and Patrick Clegg while on a foot patrol in the town-shopping plaza, noticed 4 juveniles acting suspiciously in the rear of the Citizens Bank. Upon approaching these subjects, each ran in different directions. One juvenile was caught and found to have in his possession a half consumed can of beer and marijuana in his pocket. After returning to the scene, a 30-pack of beer was located and seized.

During the early morning hours of November 23, Officers Gino Caputo, Joseph Andreozzi, Jeff Lavigne and Nathan Bagshaw responded to the Shell Gas Station when a female employee called to report several youths banging on the entrance doors and causing damage. While traveling to this location Officers observed the suspect vehicle and arrested the individual for vandalism. Officers were on scene within 2 minutes of the initial call.

On December 23, Officer Shane Allen responded to a silent alarm at the Hampden Meadow School and apprehended four (4) juveniles in the process of smashing windows in the rear of the school building. Because of Officer Allen's quick response and professional actions, he was able to immediately place all youths under arrest before they could flee the scene. Shortly thereafter, Sergeants Roy Degre and Thomas Poirier with Officer Gregg Koutros arrived on scene. The school sustained approximately \$2,000 in damage.

On January 1 in the evening hours, Officers Tim Harrington and Gregg Koutros responded to the Nayatt Road area for a recently vandalized mailbox. While patrolling in the area, Officer Koutros observed a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle. Officers Harrington and Koutros inspected the vehicle to find damage consistent with the destroyed mailbox. This subject then admitted guilt to the crime of vandalism.

On January 8, Officer Patrick Clegg responded to the area of Massasoit Ave. for a call of a break and entering into a house with a neighbor chasing the suspect. Officers Clegg's quick response led to the immediate capture of this individual. Please see the attached Letter of Commendation.

On March 14, Officers Gino Caputo responded to a call from a neighbor who saw a young adult leave a house from the second story window onto the garage roof. This individual was later stopped in the area by Officer Handfield and was found in possession of several collectors coins. This suspect was interviewed by Sgt. DeCrescenzo who admitted to the crime of larceny. This individual also had two outstanding warrants for his arrest.

On April 20, Officers Tim Harrington, Shane Allen and Patrick Clegg arrested a Massachusetts man for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of Alcohol after receiving a broadcast that this individual had hit a mailbox and traveled over a Beech Tree Court lawn causing excessive damage. The suspect's vehicle was observed by the above officers and subsequently stopped.

On April 25, Officers Benjamin Ferreira, Brendan Handfield, while on DUI Patrol, maintained a post on Rte. 114 after receiving a broadcast from East Providence Police that a motorist had left their city at a high rate of speed and was heading toward Barrington. Officers then observed this vehicle speeding and using the breakdown lane for travel. The vehicle was then stopped and the operator appeared intoxicated. After failing the field sobriety test, the operator was returned to the station and registered a .24 percent Blood Alcohol reading.

On May 2, @ 2214 hours Officers Tim Harrington and Shane Allen were called to respond to the rear of the Hampden Meadows School for some juveniles possible consuming alcohol. Upon arrival, the officers noted two youths playing basketball with a third youth, age 15, drinking a beer. This subject was then arrested and turned over to his parents pending prosecution.

On June 4, 2003 at 10:33 AM an East Providence resident came to the station to complain that his vehicle was struck by a rock as he passed a DPW employee cutting grass in the town of Barrington. Dispatcher Daniel Peters then entered the complainants name into the computer and found that this subject was wanted on a Superior Court Warrant and had a suspended license. This subject was then placed under arrest and transported to the Superior Court in Providence.

Officers Tim Harrington, Pat Clegg, Wes McCoy, Joseph Andreozzi, Gregg Koutros, Dianne Pinto and Jeff Lavigne were responsible for arresting 9 different individuals for possession of alcohol by a minor or Drunk Driving offenses.

Detective Division Report

On June 28, 2002, both season detectives retired from the Department. Sergeant Dino DeCrescenzo quickly transitioned in the Detective Bureau as the new Detective Sergeant on June 17, 2002. Soon after, Detective Sergeant DeCrescenzo removed a finger print image off a car window which had several items stolen from within. After comparing the lifted fingerprints with a known criminal, Detective Sergeant DeCrescenzo was able to arrest the individual for the larceny. This arrest ended a rash of larcenies from motor vehicles which were occurring in the Washington Road area.

On September 12, 2002, Officer Josh Birrell was promoted to Detective Bureau and joined Detective Sergeant DeCrescenzo as the Department's only two Detectives.

The Juvenile Hearing Board was reactivated on October 15, 2002 and meet monthly to hear criminal cases. Any youth under the age of eighteen and who has no prior contact with the police department, are considered eligible to have their case heard before the Juvenile Hearing Board. Juveniles are accompanied by their parents and must admit guilt to the criminal charge. The Juvenile Hearing Board is an opportunity for the youth of this community to hopefully learn from their mistakes without going to Family Court.

The Juvenile Hearing Board has heard the 38 cases since October 2002; 27 of which were males and 11 females. The most common offenses include 12 Alcohol Related offenses and larceny offense.

Interesting Detective Cases

In October Detective Josh Birrell arrested a subject for breaking into his ex girlfriend's house in the night-time and then using her ATM card at the Sovereign Bank in Barrington. Detectives used a video surveillance tape to identify this subject who was illegally using her credit card. He was held in the ACI and is awaiting a violation hearing.



Detective Sgt. Dino Decrescenzo and Detective Josh Birrell received a complaint of a larceny of an engagement ring valued at \$4,500. Within twenty-four hours, Detectives cultivated information and responded to Fall River, Massachusetts to interview a potential female witness. The witness stated that her boyfriend had given her the ring to get married. The witness also stated that her boyfriend had worked at the victim's house in Barrington. The ring has been seized as evidence and a warrant has been lodged for the Fall River man for felony larceny. Please see the attached letter on behalf of the detective's actions.

During August of 2002, Officer Joseph Andreozzi received information from a confidential source that a Barrington home had three weapons removed and the owners had no knowledge of this larceny. Officer Andreozzi's information also identified a possible suspect responsible for larceny. Detective Sergeant DeCrescenzo then investigated this information further and found that a break and enter into a Barrington residence and 3 handguns were stolen did occur without the owners knowledge.. A safe was stolen which contained the 3 guns. Investigation led to the suspect, a Barrington resident, who confessed to Det. Sgt. DeCrescenzo. Further investigation revealed that one of the employees of Sam's Food Stores on County Road purchased one of the handguns, a semi automatic Berretta handgun from the suspect. A long term investigation by Det. Sgt. DeCrescenzo culminated in arrest of Mr. Syed Shah and his brother Mr. Syed Shah as well. INS, ATF, were told and advised of the case and INS assisted in the service of the arrest warrant. False and forged foreign passports were discovered. A locked briefcase was seized and a search warrant was obtained by detectives which revealed and another false foreign passport and other false identity papers.



Both brothers were charged federally as a result of these arrests and are serving time in Federal Prison. Both brothers are facing deportation. Det. Sgt. DeCrescenzo revealed another weapon was sold to an East Providence resident. Detectives worked with East Providence Detectives and arrested the purchaser of the other stolen weapon. The third and final weapon was found in East Providence.

During the second week of November, Sgt. Roy Degre received confidential information that marijuana plants were being kept in the yard of a Fales Ave. resident. Based on this information, Detective Sgt. Dino DeCrescenzo and Detective Josh Birrell investigated a homegrown marijuana operation at a Fales Ave residence and seized 64 large marijuana plants with a street value over \$10,000.



As a result of month long investigation in December 2002, Detective Josh Birrell arrested a Barrington juvenile on two counts of destruction and injury to public property; the Barrington High School and the Department of Public Works, which were both severely spray painted in the month of November. The costs to remove the paint are estimated at approximately \$4,000. This was outstanding detective work done on behalf of Detective Birrell to cultivate confidential information and solve both cases.



In the late afternoon hour of December 30, Sgt. Scott McGovney with Officers Joseph Andreozzi and Benjamin Ferreira investigated a animal brutality complaint from a Barrington resident. As a result of this investigation, it was determined that one pet dog was beaten to death while another sustained multiple injuries and survived. Chief LaCross with Sergeant Dino DeCrescenzo and Detective Josh Birrell immediately began a thorough investigation of this heinous crime. It was determined that a homeless man staying as a guest at the complainant's residence, may have caused the injuries to both pets and was presently on a bus to the City of Providence. Both Detectives immediately responded to Kennedy Plaza in Providence in search for this suspect and located him on a park bench. Investigation revealed that the homeless man had served sixteen years at the ACI for second-degree murder and was presently on parole. Further investigation and evidence collected by detectives at the Barrington residence indicated that physical human

contact with both pets was evident. The homeless man was charged with two felony counts of Malicious Injury To or Killing of Animals. The immediate and professional actions of the uniform patrol officers and the detectives handling this case are a true reflection of the outstanding quality of services provided to this community.



On January 18, Newport Police Narcotics Unit assisted Detective Sgt. Dino DeCrescenzo and Detective Josh Birrell along with uniform officers executed a court-authorized search for a Maple Avenue residence and seized 7 pounds of hybrid marijuana with an estimated street value of \$20,000. Three subjects were arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver. Two Thousand dollars in US Currency was also seized from this apartment.

Det Sgt DeCrescenzo handled embezzlement investigation involving employee of RI Country Club, which he obtained a confession and the suspect was charged with embezzling over \$8,000.00 from the country club over the course of a 5 month period.

Detectives processed and investigated along with the RI State Fire Marshall's Office approximately a half dozen arsons or suspicious fires. The most serious arson was a house that had been set on fire while the occupants were sleeping in the residence. Luckily, the first floor resident awakened and woke everyone else in the home who were able to get out without serious injury.



On May 14, Detective Josh Birrell arrested two High School females students for stealing a \$2,300 guitar from the High School music room on May 9, 2003. Because of Det. Birrell's investigative skills and working with Assistant Principal Joseph Hurley, one of the students confessed and the guitar was located in City of Warwick and was undamaged. The guitar was subsequently turned over to the original owner.

On May 12, a female resident reported her pocketbook stolen by a white male as she entered the Movie Gallery Video store. Several witnesses gave chase on foot after this individual and soon followed him with their cars. Using cellular telephones, the location of the suspect's travel was forwarded to the dispatch center who in turn called the area post cars and Seekonk Police Department. This suspect was then stopped near Four Town Farm by Seekonk Police. This individual subsequently admitted to the crime in a witness statement taken by Det. Sergeant Dino DeCrescenzo. Several Barrington residents who gave chase after the suspect and provided critical information to the police were provided with Letters of Recognition.

Offenses Investigated During FY-03

FORCIBLE RAPE	9
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	1
FORCIBLE FONDLING	1
ROBBERY	3
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5
SIMPLE ASSAULT	60
INTIMIDATION	8
ARSON	10
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTER	76
SHOPLIFTING	11
THEFT FROM BUILDING	29
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	11
ALL OTHER LARCENY	246
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	7
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	11
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE / CO	6
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER	25
IMPERSONATION	1
WIRE FRAUD	1
EMBEZZLEMENT	4
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALI	238
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	26
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	1
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	11
BAD CHECKS	11
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	72
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	34
FAMILY OFFENSES, NONVIOLENT	5
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	35
RUNAWAY	1
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	8
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	250
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	337
TOTALS	1555

FY-03 Arrest Statistics by Age	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	TOTALS
FORCIBLE RAPE		2	1				3
ROBBERY			1				1
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT			1				1
SIMPLE ASSAULT		17	16	2	15	2	52
INTIMIDATION		1					1
ARSON		1					1
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERI		7	3	1	2		13
SHOPLIFTING		3		2	2		7
THEFT FROM BUILDING		7	2		1		10
ALL OTHER LARCENY		8	8	1	3		20
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT		3			1		4
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY			2				2
FY-03 Arrest Statistics by Age	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	TOTALS
EMBEZZLEMENT				2	1		3
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALI		29	8	2	3	1	43
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS		12	16	2	3		33
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS		4			2		6
BAD CHECKS					2		2
DISORDERLY CONDUCT		27	10	2	11		50
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE		2	10	1	18	2	33
FAMILY OFFENSES, NONVIOLENT					2		2
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		16	17				33
RUNAWAY		1					1
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		28	41	20	43	5	137
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES		20	32	20	44	6	122
TOTALS	0	188	168	55	153	15	580



Chief LaCross in black body suit gets pushed back while Instructor/Officer Bill Dorney looks on.



Chief LaCross puts his hand up to surrender after receiving a blow to the knee cap. Instructor Marylyn Gitlin in the stripes gets a chuckle seeing the chief in pain.



Officer/instructor Dorney gets thrown to the mat, again by Black Belt Instructor Marylyn Gitlin. Officer /Instructor Ray Blinn of East Providence PD looks on with a smile. The students learned that males are not physically superior.

Powerful Girls Training

During September 2002, the Students Assistance Program at BHS, in conjunction with the Barrington Police Department, offered a dating violence/self defense program for all female students. The Barrington Education Foundation funded this program entitled, "Powerful Girls".

Girls in Grades 9-12 attended a theatre performance of *The Yellow Dress*, a play about dating violence. They received classroom instruction about dating violence and sexual assault. They are now participating in the last phase of the self-defense classes taught by members of the Barrington, East Providence and Portsmouth Police Departments.

This program was designed by Barrington Police Chief John LaCross and BHS student assistance counselor Ms. Joanne Royley, in response to a need to empower our community's young women against increasing dating violence, which is nationwide problem. This is the first comprehensive program of its kind in the state and will hopefully serve as a pilot program for other communities.



A quick knee to the groin will always incapacitate the aggressor.